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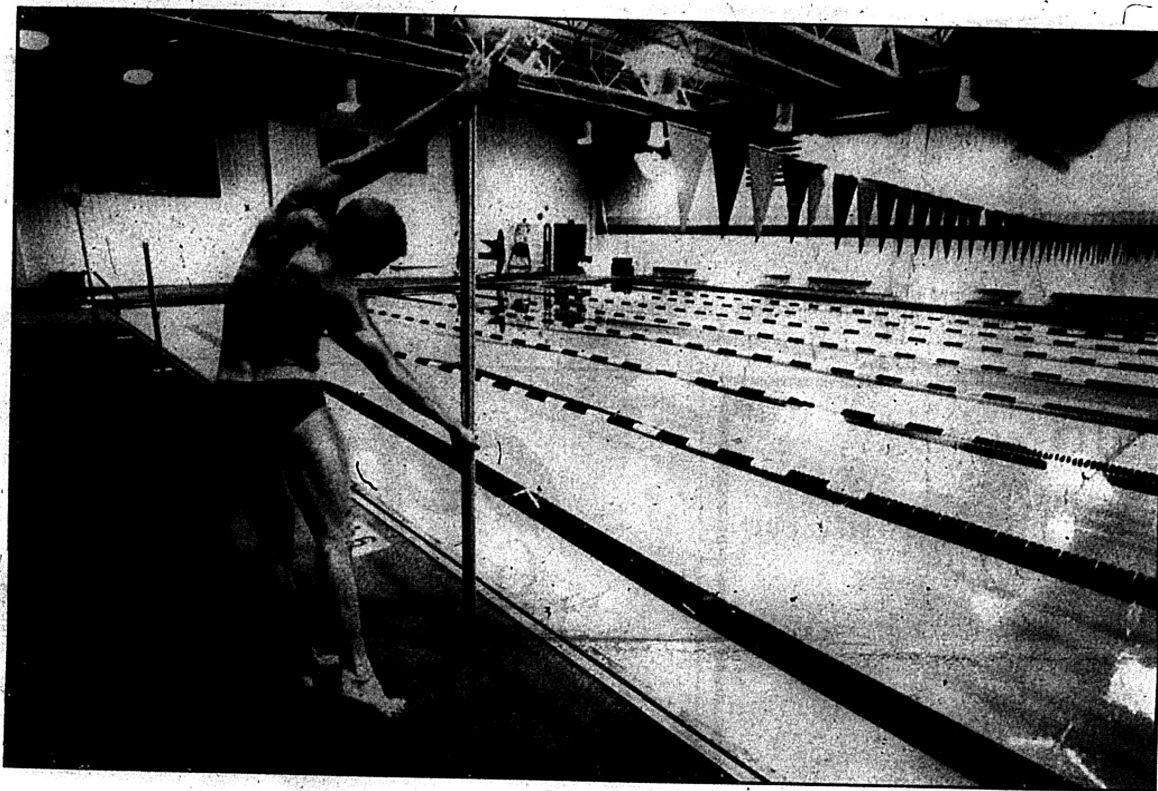
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College
Heights
Herald

Magazine

October 17, 1991



LAST CHANCE AT GOLD

ST. LOUIS — The third fastest swimmer in history is leading his teammates in warmup exercises.

"OK, let's do those windmill things that everybody hates," says former Western student Steve Crocker with a smile at 13-year-old Laura Wood beside him.

Crocker, 28, sits in the middle of a group of young swimmers by the side of the Lafayette High School indoor pool. The school is in Chesterfield, Mo.,

about 20 minutes from St. Louis. Six days a week, this is where Crocker practices for the March Olympic trials. Unlike others training for the Olympics, he does not work out with a personal coach or with a college team. Instead, these junior high and high school swimmers are his teammates.

Today, he shares a lane with Lafayette senior John Renko. The two are doing their kicking drill in unison while coach Jim Halliburton watches.

Halliburton, a former Olympic contender himself, smiles and speaks through the thunder of splashing that echoes off the walls. "It's kind of amazing," he says.

It's a statement that many agree with, considering the path Crocker has taken to his status.

Western swimming coach Bill Powell tells the earlier part of the story.

"I think the world recognizes how good he is, but not many of the people around here know that," he says as he leaves his office beside Diddle Arena.

Powell met Crocker the summer before Crocker's junior year in high school at a Western summer sports camp.

"He had signed up for tennis, but it was too hot, so he came to me and asked if he could join the swim class," Powell says.

Crocker, who stood out with a pair of blue

boxer trunks, had never had any formal swimming instruction. Powell asked him to jump in anyway.

When he put his hand into the water, Powell says, "something happened."

The coach asked Crocker to swim the 50. Crocker said, 50 laps? Powell replied, 50 yards. Up and back.

Powell demonstrates the way Crocker started off the blocks, crouching with his hands on his knees. A swimmer starts with his hands on the blocks, one foot in front of the other.

"He got to the end of the lane and didn't know how to turn," Powell says. "He kind of wiggled around."

Crocker's time of 26.5 seconds started the coach. "I told him it wasn't very fast for a swimmer but, for a human, it was really fast."

Camp progressed with Crocker picking up on what the other swimmers had been taught years ago. He did so well that Powell tried to persuade him to transfer to Bowling Green to practice.

Crocker chose to stay in Franklin but drove 30 minutes several days a week to practice at Western. Traveling with the Bowling Green squad, he participated in high school swim meets as an individual from Franklin-Simpson High School.

He caught on quickly, placing fifth in the

SEE SWIM, PAGE 5B

STORY BY CARA ANNA

PHOTOS BY ANDY LYONS

INSIDE

1

LAST CHANCE AT GOLD

A 1985 Western graduate, Steve Crocker is the third fastest swimmer in history. And he never had formal training until he attended a swim class one summer at Western. Now, he says the Olympics is his "one and only goal."

3

50 YEARS OF SCHOOL SPIRIT

Raymond and Hattie Preston graduated from the Hill over 50 years ago, but they never forgot their alma mater. And though they still won't reveal how much money they donated last year to the construction of the new health and activity center, they will tell how much Western means to them—and why.

8

BORN TO RIDE

A Melbourne junior, Missy Jo Kremer had her own horse before she was even born. Her mother, Nancy, says she really has "a passion" for riding. And she has the medals to prove it.

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50 years of School Spirit

HENDERSON — Ray and Hattie Preston love Western as much as they love each other.

Almost.

In 50 years of marriage, the Prestons have shared a lot of happiness. After Ray's stint in the Navy, during which he served in World War II and the Korean War, they established a home in Henderson, just west of Owensboro on the Ohio River.

There, while Ray has enjoyed a successful career in banking and business, the Prestons have bought and developed their own 680-acre farm; raised four daughters and adopted a son.

The Prestons also have had their share of rough times.

But through it all, they have never forgotten where they met and received their education. And to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, the Prestons decided to make a substantial donation to the construction of what will be the Raymond B. Preston Student Activities Center, located on Western's south campus.

Reclining in the living room of the home they have lived in since 1953, Ray and Hattie recalled the circumstances that brought them to Western about 54 years earlier.

Ray, originally from Paintsville in far eastern Kentucky, began college at the University of Tennessee.

"It was tough times over there," he said. "I was the next to last of seven children. I grew up in the height of the Depression, and that's a very rural, very poor area. But our family did well. My dad worked in the coal mines. We did better than most folks in the area, but it was kind of skinny."

He said he transferred to Western to avoid out-of-state tuition and because "I wanted to get to a smaller school." Western Kentucky State Teacher's College had an enrollment of about 1,500 in the late '30s. Western's enrollment now exceeds 15,000.

Since Hattie grew up in Henderson, about 90 minutes from Bowling Green, Western was geographically convenient. Still, she said she hardly ever went home on the weekends, as many of today's students do. "Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break, and that was it," she said.

The Prestons smile when they talk about how they met. They had a psychology class together, and since Hattie's maiden name was Paff, they were close together on the teacher's seating chart. Hattie said the psychology instructor she got in the class came in handy.

"I used all the psychology I could to get a date with him," she said with a giggle.

They don't remember their first date. The memories are of staying in Bowling Green every weekend and going to dances, movies and ball games.

Asked what kinds of activities and clubs they were involved in, Hattie said flatly, "We supported Western."

"We didn't miss a basketball game or a football game, as students nowadays do," she said. "There weren't any sororities or any fraternities. Every weekend there was something going on."

The pride the Prestons felt as students still flows when they come back to visit.

"You get lost around campus trying to remember what was where," Ray said. "But there's a lot of nostalgia and still a deep sense of pride."

Hattie climbed out of her chair to answer a phone call as Mischief, the Prestons' Shih-Tzu, trotted along at her feet.

The Prestons have a comfortable lifestyle in Henderson. Ray is chairman of Ohio Valley National Bank, of which he speaks highly. "We're very proud of our bank. We think it's one of the leading banks in town."

He's also chairman of Adams Street Development Corp., a company geared toward helping new businesses locate in the area, and a consultant to PB&S Chemical Co.

Last fall, the Prestons were to return to Bowling Green to be inducted into the Golden Anniversary Club, a group of Western alumni who graduated 50 years ago or more, but Ray's open-heart surgery forced them to cancel the trip.

Though the Prestons were disappointed about missing the occasion, Ray's surgery gave them a new lease on life.

"I had the surgery, she had the recovery," Ray said, looking at his wife.

"Things definitely become more finite," he said. "As you get older, you keep equating things. There comes a point in time when you realize the lease is not as long as it used to be."

"Open-heart surgery will make you re-evaluate the situation. It's sort of an opportunity to reappraise things, assess, certain values that you might have taken for granted."

Ray, 71, said he's fully recovered. And though he said he retired last April, he still leads a life that is similar to many who work full-time.

He said he spends a couple of days a week at the bank and a couple at the Adams Street business. The Prestons still make several out-of-town trips a year, many of which are business-related.

Retirement "was just sort of a re-direction of emphasis," Ray admitted.

"If I want to leave early, I do. If I want to take two or three days off in the middle of week, I do. I'm only working about 40 hours a week instead of 60 or 70."

The Prestons own about 200 head of cattle and a few horses at their farm just south of Henderson, and a case of rifles sits in their living room.

"I'm a quail hunter," Ray said. "You get that kind of fever early on in your life, and you never lose it."

SEE SPIRIT, PAGE 4B

STORY BY JOHN MARTIN

PHOTO BY TOM LEININGER

SPiRiT

CONTINUED FROM 3B

Soon after Ray's recovery from the surgery, he fell off of a horse and broke a rib. But he still rides and works on the farm every weekend he's home.

"You've never been hurt until you've had a broken rib; I'll promise you," he said.

Still, the farm is a big part of the Prestons' life.

"What goes around comes around," said Hattie, 72. "He was

horrible that can be unless you're talking to your grandson at Christmas, and he turns his head and doesn't know it's Christmas. But he is making progress."

The Prestons' adopted son, Kent, 21, attends Western and is a member of Sigma Nu. They also have four grown daughters: Leigh Anne, 28, Charlotte, 28, Connie, 47, and Viki, 50.

Silence fills the Prestons' living room when they are asked the amount of their donation to the activities center.

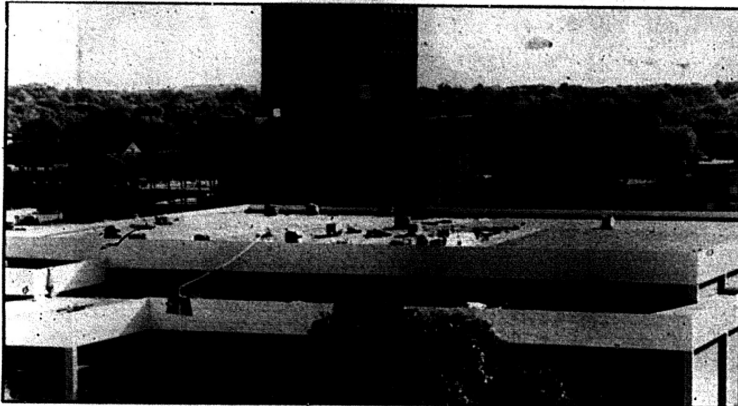
"Just don't say it," Hattie said

wedding anniversary, it just seemed like the appropriate time to do something of lasting value to commemorate the occasion."

The 1988 General Assembly approved the building, but required Western to raise most of the money privately, Meredith said.

"It became obvious shortly after I got here that Mr. Preston was one of our outstanding alums," he said. "I found them to be delightful and very fond of the university."

"We talked about ways they could get more involved, and they were extremely positive to



Tom Leininger/Herald

born on a farm, and he left it very early in his life because he hated it and now he loves it."

Ray breaking a rib was a rather small catastrophe compared with an incident in the family endured seven years ago.

One of the Prestons' grandchildren, David, suffered a blow to the head during a high school football game in 1984, his senior year. He was comatose for 24 days.

Following his injury, David was declared legally blind, had severe memory problems and needed to learn how to walk again, psychology Professor Karlene Ball said.

He is in a special program at Western developed by Ball. David has done rehabilitation work at the Mayo Clinic and has taken some classes at Brescia College in Owensboro and at Beacon College in Leesburg, Fla.

David is taking classes at Western for the first time this semester while living in Schneider Hall. He works a couple of hours a day with Ball and others on his memory skills.

"What we're working on is developing and refining training techniques that we've used on older individuals," Ball said. "A lot of the problems people with this kind of injury have are similar."

"He's come along," Ray said. "He went from zero recall."

"You don't have any idea how

sternly to her husband. "Don't say it."

"It's not a public figure," Ray said. "It was enough to enable them to get the show on the road."

The actual idea to build an activities center on campus did not begin with the Prestons' donation. Ray got to know President Thomas Meredith soon after he arrived at Western, and the two began talking about what was transpiring.

"They had had authorization for this building for a long time," Ray said. "They just couldn't get the finances together that they were required to raise."

"We thought it over. We've had a good life, and on our 50th

"When I was there, you had to look all over the campus to find somebody with a car. And now you can't find a parking place."

— Raymond Preston

the concept of the student activities building."

Ray said the building will allow faculty and students who aren't varsity athletes to enjoy physical fitness activities.

"There's never been a place at Western for the intramural folks," he said. "I think that it would be pretty silly for the students and faculty to have a facility that would be theirs."

The building, which is scheduled to open next fall, has an overall construction budget of about \$10 million. It will be the Prestons' legacy to their alma mater, which they say helped them succeed.

"We think of Western as having, number one, brought us together," Ray said, "and, number two, as having taught us some of the basic values for living and for raising your family."

The Prestons say one of the biggest differences in the Western they left in 1940 and the Western they come back to visit today is the scarcity of parking around campus.

"When I was there, you had to look all over the campus to find somebody with a car," Ray said. "And now you can't find a parking place."

After being reminded that the activities center construction has contributed to the parking squeeze, Ray laughed.

"Yeah, but it's impressive." □

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During practice, Steve Crocker does the freestyle stroke. His daily workout included a 7,000-yard swim, taking more than two hours to complete. He

trained with swimmers from Lafayette High School in Chesterfield, Mo., near St. Louis. Steve said making the Olympic team was his "one and only goal."



Swim

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

state as a junior and setting a state record the next year in the 50.

It was a short step for him to join Powell at Western. Four years later, Crocker swam a 19.7 in the 50 ("a school record, and it will probably be one for a long time," Powell says) and placed fourth in the NCAA meet in the event. He was an All-American at Western, the only swimmer here to receive that honor.

As a junior, he made the Olympic trials in the 100 butterfly in 1984. He placed low in this first attempt.

Four years later, Crocker tried again, making the trials in the 50-meter. He finished third.

He was third by .15 of a second. Crocker holds up two fingers about 6 inches apart to indicate the difference.

A national team may take only the top two finishers in an event to the Olympics. While Matt Blondi and Tom Jager went to Seoul, Crocker watched from the United States.

His time in the Olympic trials of 22.65 would have won him a bronze medal.

Powell once told a fellow coach of Crocker's missed opportunity.

"That story makes my head hurt," the coach responded.

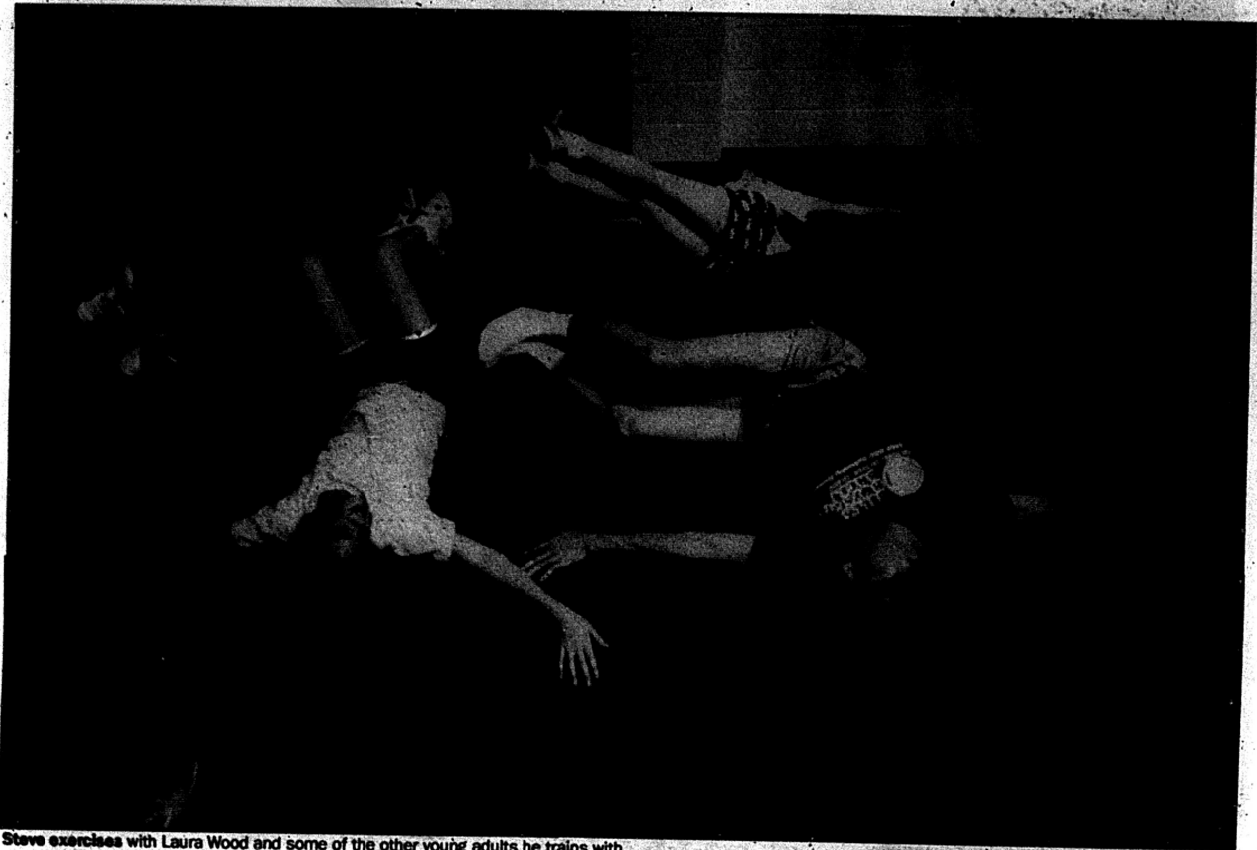
Both Blondi and Jager will return for another try next year. Jager had decided to retire if he had won the gold in 1988, but Blondi won the event.

When he put
his hand
in the water,
"something
happened."

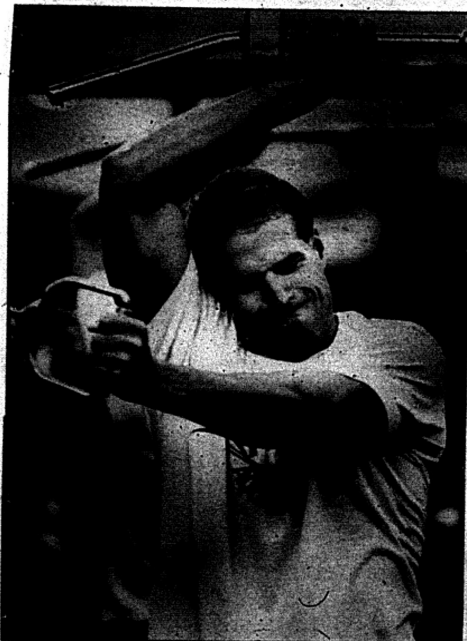
— Coach Bill Powell



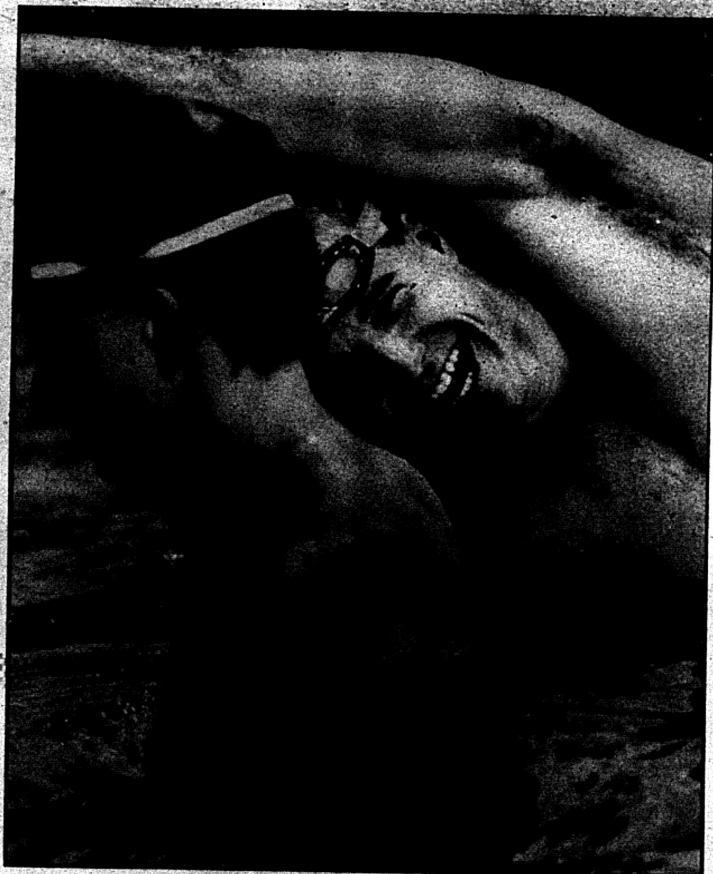
Steve stays after practice to record the day's workout in his log.



Steve exercises with Laura Wood and some of the other young adults he trains with.



Twenty-eight-year-old Steve works out daily to keep in shape, above. Right, Steve shares a laugh with his 17-year-old teammate John Renko between routines in their workout.



SWIM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5B

The challenge that lies ahead in March at the 1992 Olympic trials in Indianapolis keeps Crocker going. "Being an Olympian is the biggest thing," he says. "It's my one and only goal."

So he continues to practice more than two hours and 7,000 yards a day with a team made up of swimmers who, at their age, have more experience than he did. "This is the best competition I can find," he says.

Of the 52 members of the U.S. national team, Crocker estimates that 20 are out of college. Of those 20, 18 train with college teams.

There are no special places for him to train like that here.

Here, Crocker must train under a coach whose other swimmers still receive report cards. But don't overlook Coach Halliburton. Crocker prefers to train under him.

Halliburton ranked first in the world in the 100 butterfly in 1979. He qualified for the 1980 Olympics in the event, but the United States boycotted the ceremonies that year.

Now, at 31, he coaches.

"I think I understand how to train older swimmers and sprinters," he says. He calls the 50 the "drag race of swimming."

Crocker agrees. "The 50 is unique. It's a whole lot different training for something that lasts 20 seconds. I don't think there are more than a dozen coaches in the country that understand that."

Halliburton says he thinks Crocker can make the Olympics. Although Jager is the world-record holder and Blondi is ranked first, Crocker has beaten Blondi four of the past six times they have competed, and he has beaten Jager five of the past six times.

His best time is 22.32. He got that last month. "I'm more motivated than I've ever been," says Crocker.

Crocker's mother, Helen, who works at Western in the history department, says that at meets people are more impressed by his coaching ability when they watch him.

"He has a troubleshooting nature," she says. "He always has to improve things."

That is not a problem for Halliburton, who welcomes the help, or for the swimmers. "They're kind of used to him," Halliburton says. "They look up to him and realize that he probably knows what he is talking about."

"He loves to make jokes," says Wood, a distance freestyle swimmer. "He's just like one of the members of the team."

Later, while they continue exercising, Crocker miscounts: "You're not too bright, are you?" Wood teases him and is met by a grin.

His teammates treat him as another swimmer and as another coach, even though they know he is training for the Olympics. Few others, however, know him as the third fastest swimmer in history.

Crocker works four hours a day as a plant engineer

for Budweiser as part of the Anheuser-Busch Olympics Job Opportunity Program. To most people there he is simply a plant engineer, but there soon will be a company newsletter article about him.

His two top competitors, Blondi and Jager, get more national attention, but Crocker likes it that way. "Blondi always has a big camera in his face," he says, holding up both hands and peering through them to illustrate.

Late in the practice he participates in a 25-meter drill with the swimmers, from one end of the pool to another. He dives in and stays underwater for half of the length of the pool. It takes him nine strokes to reach the side.

Today, he is adding time to his training schedule to give a college swimmer some help on his starts.

"He has the start down to a science," Powell says. It's a long way from that first awkward, hand-on-knees attempt.

"Ten years ago I never thought I'd be right here," Crocker says. "I want to say a lot of good things about Coach Powell. He's the person who saw this skinny guy in gym shorts and made him a swimmer. He's definitely the one who kept me going."

Powell will be at the trials in Indianapolis March 5. So will Halliburton.

"This will probably be his last year," says Halliburton, watching the swimmers. "I think the Olympics is what has kept him going through 1992. It's taken a lot of work. The age will catch up."

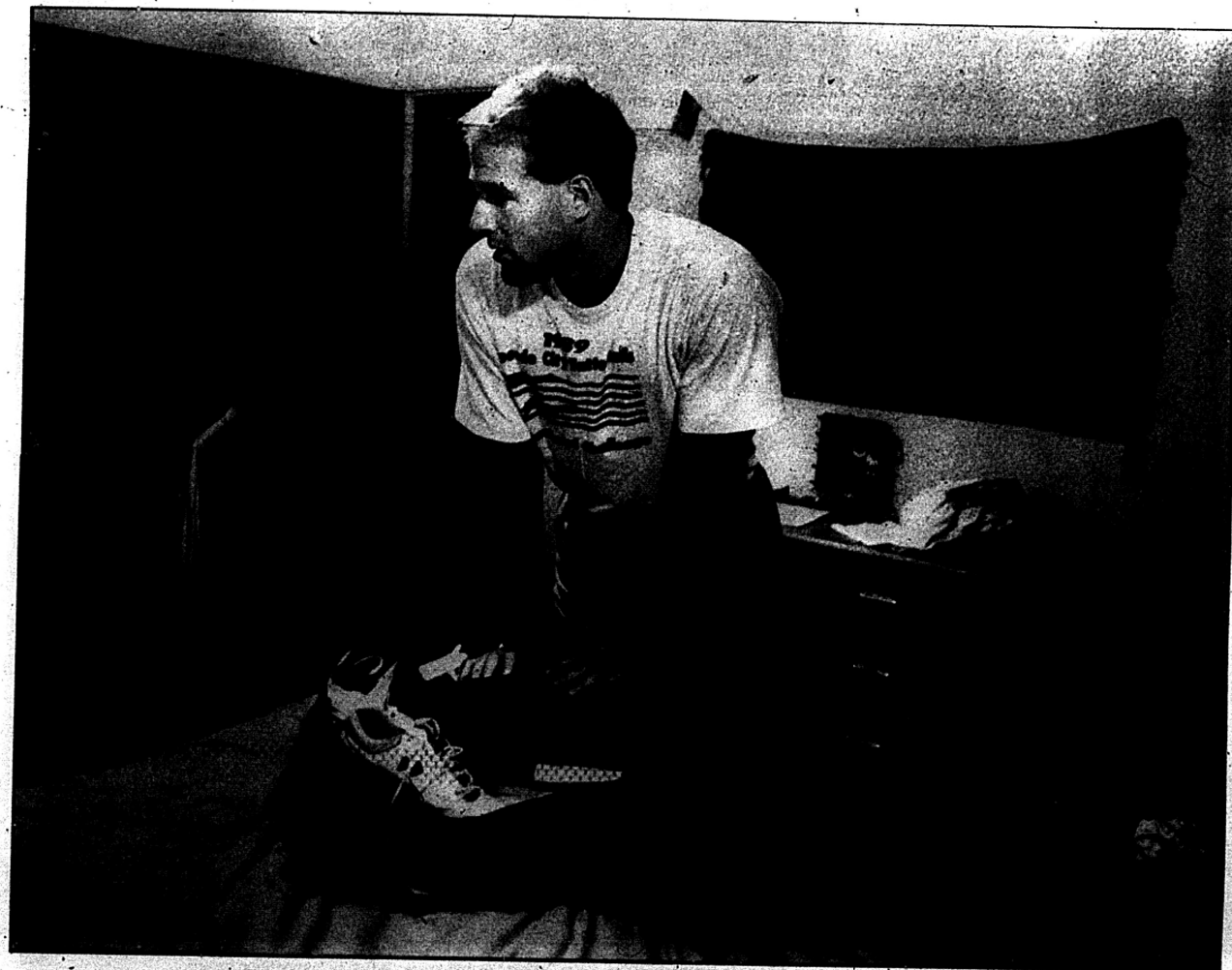
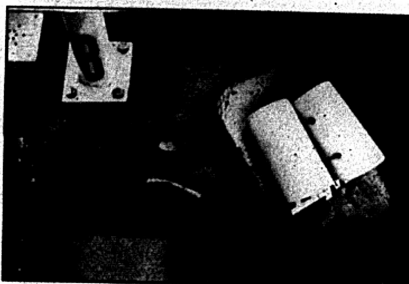
When he was the age of his teammates, Crocker lived across from the only pool in Franklin and spent summers working there. His mother remembers him winning all of the local races.

"It's natural that he is interested in swimming. It's just surprising how far he went in it," she says.

Crocker says he has not received much notice in his hometown, but he might if he goes to the Olympics. "They might name the pool after me," he says, with a grin.

Despite only 12 years of experience in a sport where he should have at least 20, despite training where his teammates are half his age, he enjoys what he does.

"I've learned a lot this way," he says. "Now there's just one more step."



Three days prior to his wedding, Steve looks back to his closet while he packs his bags to make sure he hasn't forgotten anything.

Born to Ride

Missy Jo Kremer got her first horse before she was even born.

She started riding with her father when she was 1. She got her first ribbon when she was 3.

Her mother, Nancy, said she and husband, Joe, have always encouraged Missy Jo's riding.

"Missy really has a passion," she said. "When she was younger we did a lot of trail riding and I would pack her lunch so she wouldn't have to get off her pony."

Her parents are behind her riding 100 percent, the Melbourne Junior said.

"They stuck me on a pony when I was a baby in diapers," she said. "I'm bowlegged and I just know that's why."

"I had lessons from a tiny, tiny age. I don't ever remember not taking lessons."

The sun was pale yellow in the clear September morning sky. The only sounds were the rumble of diesel engines and the sound of trucks pulling horse trailers onto the gravel lot at the Hoosier Horse Park in Franklin, Ind.

Horses, their breath misty, waited in rows of wooden stalls to be groomed. An earthy smell — a mixture of hay and horse feed — hung in the air.

Missy Jo rode in the weekend competition as part of a five-member riding team for Triple Z Appaloosa Farm, sponsored by Betty Ortleib, her trainer and close friend. She competed as an individual in the Junior Young Rider championships.

Missy Jo has been a member of Western's equestrian team since she was a freshman. She practices with the team two nights a week and has gone home every weekend but one to practice for the competition.

Razputin, a bay thoroughbred with one-eighth quarterhorse, is Ortleib's horse and the one Missy Jo rode in the Sept. 21 and 22 regional competition. She's been riding "Raz" for three months.

"He's very high strung, like a little kid you don't want to give any sugar to," Missy Jo said.

"He's a horse you find once every 10 years," she said. Razputin was originally trained for the race track.

Ortleib grew up with Missy Jo's father. Missy Jo started training with Ortleib when she was 13.

"I was born this way. I came from a non-horse family and my non-horsing family thinks I'm nuts," Ortleib said, while braiding a horse's mane. "I was supposed to be a

vet."

She and husband Gary train horses and give lessons at their farm in Foster in northern Kentucky.

"She can train anything," Missy Jo said.

Before Missy Jo could change from faded jeans and a sweatshirt to a white pair of breeches and a black formal jacket, she had to groom Raz and braid his mane into a neat row.

Missy Jo, who had to ride the course from memory, recited it aloud over and over like some kind of magic spell while she got her riding gear ready. She went into the next stall, which had been converted into a temporary dressing room, to change clothes and braid her long, curly blonde hair.

As she straddled a wooden bench, she rummaged through a pink and gray makeup kit for a pony-tail holder. Expensive riding clothes in clear plastic bags hung next to leather reins and tack boxes full of horse brushes and combs.

"I'm scared," she said, while fumbling with her stock tie. "Man, I need to write it on my hand or something." Because she's riding in a championship class she won't have a reader calling out the course.

"Don't worry," Ortleib told her as she fastened a gold pin through Missy Jo's tie.

An announcer read the names of the judges for the weekend competition over a loudspeaker. Missy Jo's competition time was getting close.

"Missy Jo, you need to be lunging that horse," Ortleib shouted from a horse stall as Kremer leads Raz to a practice ring. Lunging involves holding a long leash, called a lunge line, while the horse trots around her — "to tire him out and get him supple."

Ortleib stood behind the high wooden fence enclosing the dusty practice field and watched Missy Jo through squinted eyes.

Missy Jo was nervous about the ride. Ortleib walked beside her as she rode to the competition ring.

"He's being good, but he's tense and he's making me tense," Missy Jo said. "So we're not doing good."



Before Betty's competition, Missy Jo helps groom her coach's horse for dressage competition.

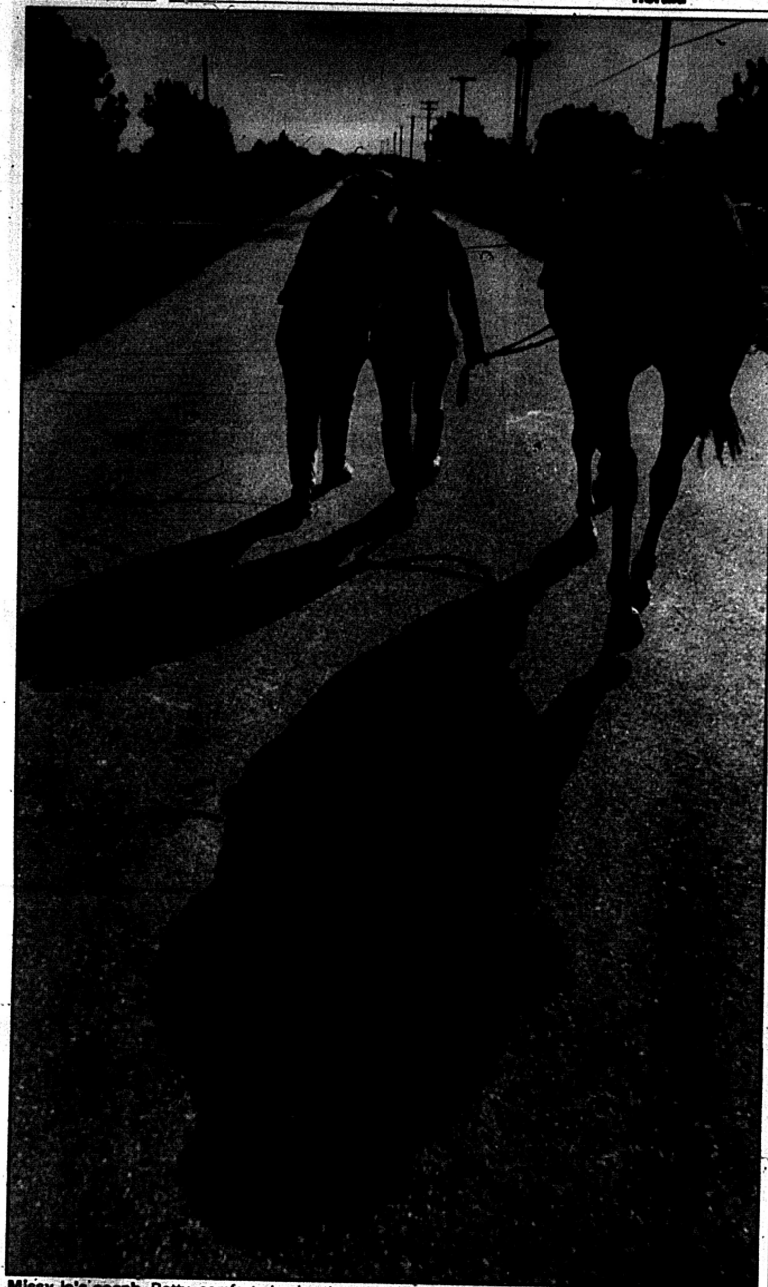
SEE HORSE, PAGE 105



In the horse stall that has been converted to a dressing room, Missy Jo Kremer's coach Betty Ortleib ties her stock tie before competition begins.

Photos by Chuck Wing

Story by Jamie Lawson



Missy Jo's coach, Betty, comforts her as they walk back to the barns at the Hoosier Horse Park in Franklin, Ind. Missy did not fare well in her first ride in the weekend competition.



Standing in the cold drizzle, Betty gives the thumbs up to Missy Jo as she rides off of the track. The weekend was over and Missy Jo finished seventh overall while the team finished first place.

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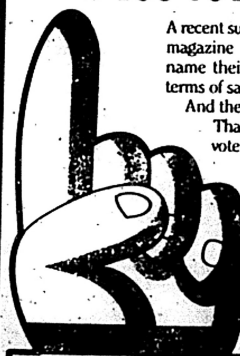
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Celebrating after their first place victory with Missy Jo are teammates Sarah Whitsett, 15, center, and Andreh Humphries, 19, right.



Betty laughs as she tugs at Missy Jo's boot after a day of riding during the competition as teammate Sarah Whitsett looks on. Missy Jo has trained with Betty since she was 13 years old.

Horse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8B

Missy Jo rode to the center of the ring, halted and gave the judge at the far end of the ring a stiff salute with her gloved hand. It took about three minutes to complete the course. Each mistake costed her two points from a starting score of 100.

Missy Jo competes in dressage, which means "combination," and is the training of the rider and the horse together. Emphasis is on balance and relaxation of the horse and rider.

"It's elegant, very traditional," she said. "And it's so beautiful to make the horse look like he's floating."

"A normal person cannot tell the difference between a good or bad dressage horse," she said. "You have to have a good horse to do this."

"You never win any money in these things, you're in it for the glory."

The ride was over and Missy Jo was disappointed. "I was so stiff," she told Ortleib, who reassured her the second half of her ride was good. They walked back to the stall and Ortleib hugged her from the side as she lead Raz back to the stall and waited for her afternoon ride.

A few hours later Missy Jo and 15-year-old Sarah Whitsett, another member of the riding team, scanned the scores that had been posted on a bulletin board.

"You got a 63!" Whitsett said, pointing at Missy Jo's score.

"No way!" Missy Jo said. "That's the highest score I've ever gotten in my life."

A week earlier, Missy Jo sat in the living room of her apartment and talked about how she has grown up with horses.

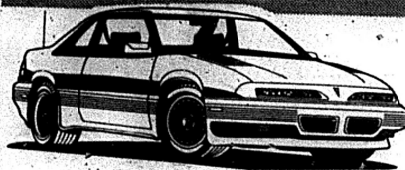
She said she got her love of horses from her parents. Her father

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was a ferrier—a person who shoes horses—for seven years and now manages a nursery in Cincinnati.

Her mother died on her first date with Missy Jo's father and told him she could ride in order to impress him. She ended up splitting her pants, Missy Jo said, laughing.

Dressage is an expensive hobby, she said. As she flipped through the pages of a photo album she pointed to pictures of her at home last summer giving horseback lessons to make money to compete.

"I work my butt off," she said.

The clothes necessary for dressage—a stock tie, hunt hat, black formal jacket, white pants and high leather boots—cost at least \$500, she said. A saddle is about \$1,000.

"It took me a long time to get what I have."

Dressage is also time consuming. Horses aren't just a hobby for Kremer, an animal science major. She wants to get her doctorate degree in Equine Nutrition at Texas A&M and be a sort of "nutritionist for horses."

"I love horses. I want to do something with horses."

It was the second day of the competition—a dreary, drizzly Sunday. Missy Jo's boyfriend, Todd Neitner, her mother and brother arrived at the horse park.

The day got off to a bad start. Raz showed warning signs of colic, similar to a stomachache, but something that can be deadly for a horse. The change in environment might have been the cause, Ortleib said. Although he seemed fine after a few minutes, Ortleib had Missy Jo walk him in a field behind the stable to stretch him out and settle his stomach.

"You learn responsibility real quick when you're taking care of an animal. It takes a lot of support. It's been a family thing," Nancy Kremer said.

"Missy Jo's often put horses in front of social activities, even when she was a teen-ager, and I think that said a lot."

Missy Jo walked Raz back to the stable. It was cool out. Dirt was kicked up by horses hooves and a wind that hinted of rain.

She rode twice that day against 16 riders, including team member Sarah Whitsett.

The first ride went fairly well, but the wind caused Raz to move rigidly. Ortleib stood away from the rest of the spectators and watched Missy Jo as she made comments aloud to herself. Missy Jo finished just in time for it to start raining.

At 2 p.m. there was a steady downpour and so began the slow trickle of riders and their friends and family who decided to leave early.

Missy Jo, the other riders, and her family huddled on lawn chairs and wooden benches on the narrow concrete porch in front of the stalls.

She wore a clear plastic coat and a cover over her hat for that afternoon's ride.

Riders began to scratch or cancel their rides because of the rain and the announcer told the remaining riders to disregard their set time and "just do it" as soon as they and their horses were ready.

Ortleib and Nancy stood holding a blanket over their heads and watched Kremer ride as the rain beaded on her rain gear.

Ortleib gave Missy Jo a thumbs up signal as she rode out of the track.

The weekend was over. The team finished first and Kremer placed seventh overall.

The countless hours of practice and weekends spent driving home to practice had paid off. Missy Jo had to be back to Bowling Green in time for her 8 a.m. class.

Missy Jo was grateful to Ortleib for letting her ride her horse and she credited her for her riding style.

"I took (lessons) from others, but really Betty taught me everything. I know about dressage. I'm a product of her knowledge."

And she feels that Ortleib is both a friend and trainer.

"She's a friend, but when I'm riding she's a trainer."

"I still listen to her. She can still scare me," Missy Jo said, laughing.

As the group packed up that Sunday evening, Ortleib pulled Missy Jo aside.

She had a surprise for her.

"She told me, 'I know how much you like Raz and I know you can't buy him, so she gave him to me,'" Missy Jo said.

There was one condition. If Missy Jo ever got to the point where she couldn't keep Raz, Ortleib wanted him back.

"I was shocked," she said. "I was very happy." □

**"She's a friend,
but when I'm
riding she's a
trainer. I still
listen to her. She
can still scare me."**

— Missy Jo Kremer



During the cold and rainy Sunday afternoon of competition in Franklin, Indiana, Missy Jo sits on Betty's lap trying to keep both of them warm with the blanket.

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